

FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY flight by vertical takeoff aircraft is made by Doak 16, manufactured in Torrance for Army Transportation Corps. Ducted fans point up for helicopter takeoffs and landings, turn horizontal for flight like conventional plane.

Torrance Vertical Plane Wins Army

Acceptance of the Doak 16 vertical-takeoff-and-land airplane was announced today by the U.S. Army, after the craft completed a flight-test program with the first cross-country trips made by a U.S. VTOL aircraft.

First public demonstrations of the Doak 16, designed, constructed, and tested by Doak Aircraft Co., Inc., of Torrance, were held this week in Washington, D. C., at a meeting of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and the American Helicopter Society.

A new contract with Doak for a 50-hour flight-evaluation program, under auspices of the Army, Air Force, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was announced.

Flying across California mountains from Edwards Air Force Base to Oxnard AFB, the aircraft made sea-level tests over the shoreline and then returned to Edwards.

While at Oxnard, the Doak 16 performed an acceptance demonstration before representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force. It took off vertically like a helicopter, converted in the air to high-speed forward flight, then returned to land vertically. It also made conventional and short takeoffs and landings, showing ability to use limited runways. This operation permits carrying extra fuel.

Doak revealed today that design studies are under way for a transport plane based on the ducted-fan system. Such a transport will have important commercial as well as military utility.

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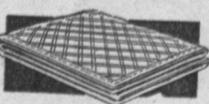
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